

IN HONOR OF THE ANCIENT
ORDER OF HIBERNIANS**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Cleveland's Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians as organizations integral in maintaining and promoting appreciation for Irish culture, history and traditions in the Cleveland community.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is the oldest Catholic lay organization in America. Its roots in America can be traced to 1836 in New York. The group began to assist Irish immigrants to the new world in obtaining jobs and social services. Today, the Ancient Order of Hibernians has shifted its purpose to charitable activities in support of the Church's missions, community service, and the promotion and preservation of their Irish cultural heritage in America.

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians was first organized in 1894 in Omaha, Nebraska under the name "Daughters of Erin." The motto of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians is "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity." Its purpose is to promote Irish history, traditions and culture, and to support the Church through Mission work and Catholic Action activities.

On March 17, 2000, Cleveland's Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians are hosting the 133rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Banquet accompanying Cleveland's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. These are the oldest and longest running events in the state of Ohio honoring the Irish patron, St. Patrick, and sharing Irish culture, history and traditions with the community.

At the 133rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Banquet, The United Irish Societies Honorees for the 2000 St. Patrick's Day Parade will be recognized. These individuals have given selflessly of themselves to insure the proud Irish heritage will continue. The honorees include: Mr. William Chambers, the Grand Marshall of the Parade; Ms. Nora Carr, the Irish Mother of the Year; Ms. Linda Carney and Mr. James McGuirk, Parade Co-Chairs; and Mr. James McGuirk, the Hibernian of the Year.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Cleveland's Ancient Order of Hibernians, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, and all of The United Irish Societies Honorees for the 2000 St. Patrick's Day Parade. The contributions and achievements of these groups and Irish Americans have inspired us all to respect and appreciate the Irish Culture.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF ROBERT
G. MILES**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Robert G. Miles on his appointment as the new president and chief executive officer of Lutheran Child and Family Service of Michigan, a statewide social service organization. Bob is a public servant in the true

est sense of the term. As anyone who has ever met Bob knows, he is a man who has devoted his life to helping Michigan's children and families to improve their own lives.

Since completing his distinguished academic career with an undergraduate degree from Concordia University and a Master of Science Degree in Exceptional Education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Bob has been integrally involved in the community around him. He is a peer reviewer and team leader for the National Council on Accreditation of Services to Children and Families, the largest accrediting body for this work in North America. He is chairman of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's National Task Force on Children at Risk and Welfare Reform. He works closely with Bay City Public Schools, the Michigan Federation of Private Child and Family Agencies, and the Bay County Red Cross. In 1990, Bob was named Concordia University Alumnus of the Year. Additionally, he was appointed to the Michigan International Year of the Family Council by Governor Engler in 1994.

Now, Bob has the opportunity to bring his enormous talents to lead an organization he has been with for nearly 15 years, one that has a history deserving of such an impressive leader. Last year, Lutheran Child and Family Service of Michigan celebrated its 100th year, and the organization is stronger than ever, employing more than 250 people, caring for more than 500 children each day, and providing innumerable additional services to families and individuals through its 18 service sites. In 1999 alone, Lutheran Child and Family Services of Michigan impacted more than 9,000 lives through counseling, foster care placements, and adoption, among its many other programs.

Mr. Speaker, with countless statistics showing that Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, people like Bob Miles are among the most valuable resources our nation has to preserve the sanctity of our towns and neighborhoods. His contributions and efforts on behalf of Michigan's children and families are both legendary and tangible. They reflect the years of tireless commitment to preserving the vitality of the American family, and helping those who need it the most. Bob Miles has given selflessly of himself to better the lives of the people around him, and for that he deserves the highest of praise.

Bob has given so much to his community through the years, but it could not have been possible without the love and support of his family—including his wife Mary and their three children, Stephanie, Paul, and Nathan. As he undertakes his new position, I ask all my colleagues to join me in offering congratulations to Robert Miles, and extending our best wishes for continued success.

IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL
SATELLITE REFORM**HON. PETER DEUTSCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in strong support of international satellite reform, S. 376, the Open-Market Reorga-

nization for the Betterment of International Telecommunications Act (ORBIT). I commend Chairman BLILEY and Congressmen MARKEY, DINGELL, OXLEY, and TAUZIN for their hard work in reaching a balanced compromise with Senate conferees. This bill has bipartisan support in the Congress and support from the United States commercial international satellite industry, as well as the largest U.S. users of international satellite services.

S. 376 will lead to more competition and eliminate the unfair market advantages long-held by intergovernmental treaty organizations. These entities have been dominant since the United States established an industry model in 1962 that relied on intergovernmental entities to provide commercial satellite services. Our 1962 Communications Satellite Act has been overtaken by amazing technological changes, which have created a vibrant private international satellite industry. We must assure that Intelsat and Inmarsat privatize in a manner that will put all industry players on an equal footing and not permit their intergovernmental legacy to distort competition.

Accordingly, ORBIT establishes explicit criteria for the privatization of Intelsat and Inmarsat. The FCC is directed to use these criteria in determining whether or not to allow the private successors and affiliates of Intelsat and Inmarsat access to the United States market. These criteria for judging and privatization, coupled with the market access restrictions if the criteria are not met, are very important to provide clear incentives to Intelsat, Inmarsat, and their spin-offs.

Intelsat, with its 143 member nations, is comprised largely of state telephone companies that control access to their national markets. They have a history of denying market access to U.S. companies that seek to compete with Intelsat. This bill will help open those markets. One of the provisions in S. 376 that is essential to this market-opening goal prohibits exclusive arrangements with foreign countries. It even-handedly prohibits any satellite operator serving the United States from enjoying the exclusive right to handle telecommunications traffic to or from the U.S. and any other country. The intent is to prevent a satellite operator from benefitting from exclusivity in any foreign market, no matter how it derives its exclusivity. Thus, all satellite operators will have a fair opportunity to provide global service.

I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this overdue reform of international satellite policy. This legislation will bring the full benefits of competition to consumers and it will begin to open access to foreign markets for United States companies.

HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES AND
EDUCATORS ACT**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today, along with a number of my colleagues, I will be introducing the "Homeownership Opportunities for Uniformed Services and Educators Act," also known as the HOUSE Act.

This legislation reinvests a small portion of the profits earned each year by the Federal

Housing Administration (FHA) single family Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund (MMIF) in low down payment mortgages, to help localities with the recruitment and retention of qualified K-12 teachers, policemen and firemen, and to make it easier for these public servants to buy a home. This bill is supported by the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the American Association of School Administrators, and the Fraternal Order of Police.

Specifically, the HOUSE Act authorizes 1% down FHA mortgage loans for qualified teachers, policemen, and firemen, and defers the 2.25% up-front FHA premium normally charged for such loans until the loan is repaid. The effect of this is dramatic. A typical borrower buying a \$130,000 home would see their down payment reduced by \$5,000, from \$6,300 to \$1,300.

In addition, the bill provides an incentive for continued service as a teacher, policeman, or fireman, by waiving 20% of the deferred FHA premium for each year that a borrower continues to live and work in the school district or local jurisdiction that employs them. Thus, after five years, the FHA premium would not only be deferred, it would be waived altogether.

To qualify, a teacher must be a full time K-12 teacher, buying a home within the school district in which that teacher is employed, or a policeman or fireman who is buying a home in the jurisdiction that employs them.

The FHA single family MMIF mortgage fund is strong. This week, FHA released audited financial results for fiscal year 1999, which showed a \$5 billion increase in the fund's capital from the previous year. FHA's capital level of over \$16 billion is substantially in excess of Congressionally required capital standards. The HOUSE bill proposes to use a very small portion of these profits to help public servants who teach our children and who police our streets to buy a home in the community in which they serve. I urge its adoption.

HONORING THE POLICE OFFICERS OF THE 114TH PRECINCT, NEW YORK CITY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, too often our news headlines are filled with bad news, while good stories and honorable people are overlooked. That is why today, I rise to pay tribute to some heroes who put their lives on the line to save then people, including two young children.

In the cold, early morning hours of January 26, 2000, Anti-crime unit Officers Daniel Lewis and Steve Zanetis of the 114th Precinct of the New York City Police Department responded to a burglar alarm. Instead of a crime scene, they smelled smoke and heard the cries of people trapped in the upper floor apartments.

Close behind the two anti-crime officers, Sergeants Andre Allen and Gary Placco arrived with other officers from the 114th to assist in a rescue. Amidst smoke and flames, the officers proceeded to locate and rescue 10 children, women and men trapped in the apartments.

Other 114th Precinct personnel on the scene were: Captain Ordonex, Officers Adam Schneider, John Pranzo, Jeffrey McRae, Greg Fraccalvieri, Joseph Reznick, James Kostaris, Greg Link, John Seymour, Kenneth Marchello, Sue Lentini, Frank Caruso, Wayne Kendall, and Terrence Floyd.

Thanks to the quick thinking and actions of these brave officers of the 114th Precinct, all residents survived. Three officers suffered minor injuries and were treated, then released from area hospitals.

Mr. Speaker I recently had an opportunity to meet these courageous officers who went above and beyond the call of duty, and to issue each of them Congressional Citations. Now I ask you to please join me in commending these intrepid police officers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, February 29, 2000 and Wednesday, March 1, 2000 I was unable to vote due to an illness. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote number 26, S. 613, "yea" on rollcall vote number 27, H.R. 5, and "yea" on rollcall vote number 28, H.R. 1883.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict in my Congressional District on Wednesday March 8, I was not present for rollcall votes 29-33. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all five votes.

THE KUNO RADIO STATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today I commending the pioneering Spanish-language radio station in Corpus Christi, Texas, KUNO Radio Station on their 50th anniversary. KUNO Radio has long been a force in my hometown of Robstown and my adopted home of Corpus Christi.

KUNO, which first went on the air in May of 1950, has been the political and cultural center of the Hispanic community of South Texas. KUNO was the first radio station in South Texas, and the second in the nation, to offer public affairs, talk radio and editorial programming in Spanish. KUNO takes a democratic approach to talk radio: whoever shows up to comment on programming gets air time.

On that note, let me offer a special tribute to Victor Lara Orregon, one of the great radio

personalities of South Texas who essentially grew up with KUNO. Victor joined the station in 1953, and he is the one who instituted the wildly popular public affairs show, "Comentarios." If you are a political candidate in South Texas, you go to "Comentarios" or you lose.

One of the early and great contributions to modern music by KUNO was the access and exposure they gave Tejano music and musicians. KUNO is recognized as one of the venues that launched a thousand Tejano talents, including the late, great Selena, who grew up in Corpus Christi. The Tejano genre grew up in South Texas, fortified by KUNO and other stations that followed their lead, launching Tejano as a strong, multi-million-dollar international industry.

KUNO has been a news leader in South Texas; they are often the first news organization to announce election results. Their tireless dedication to news and information is legendary. In 1970, Hurricane Celia knocked all local programming off the air. KUNO was the first radio station back on the air, thanks to an affiliate's generosity with a generator and emergency antenna.

Through the years, KUNO has provided for the culture of South Texas by holding large, outdoor concerts, bringing music to the people directly. They have provided for the political sensibilities of South Texas by providing a forum for political debates and treating us all to the best election and candidate coverage available. They have been a part of the journey of the local, state and federal governments in the last half of the 20th Century.

I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the contributions made by KUNO to the social and political lives of South Texas.

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Comcast Cablevision, for investing in our future. In Macomb County, Michigan, Comcast has offered free high speed Internet service to schools and libraries. More than seventy schools are already using this service and more schools are being wired each week.

While many Americans are prospering, it is important that we do all we can to ensure that everyone has the same opportunity to learn and excel in this digital age. It is crucial that all students have access in school to the latest technology and training so that when our children enter the workforce they are fully prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

Since passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, telecommunications companies have had a great incentive to invest in our communities and improve service to consumers. Comcast and many other telecommunications companies are beginning to offer more advanced services and lower prices for consumers and I applaud their efforts and the progress we have made since passage of the 1996 Act.